



Washington's Derelict Vessel Removal and Disposal Program

With the legislation passed in the 2001 and 2002 sessions, Washington now has the statutory authority and funding to clean up, remove, and dispose of derelict vessels. The 2001 Legislature authorized the use of money in the state toxics account to clean up and dispose of hazardous substances on abandoned and derelict vessels. In 2002, the Legislature passed ESHB 2376, which directed the creation of an account to be used for the purposes of removing and disposing of derelict vessels.

The Program

The program provides funding and expertise to assist authorized public entities in the removal and disposal of abandoned and derelict vessels across the state, including:

- Reimbursement of 75% of the cost of removal and disposal. The remaining 25% can be credited in the form of "in-kind" services.
- Public entities authorized to undertake removal, but unable to do so, may ask the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assume the lead.
- Vessels in danger of breaking up, sinking, blocking a navigational channel, or presenting an environmental risk will be given funding priority.

■ Eligibility

Only authorized public entities may participate in this program-- DNR, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Metropolitan Park Districts, Port Districts, and any city, town, or county with ownership, management, or jurisdiction over the aquatic lands where the vessel is located.

■ Funding

Program funding comes from a \$2 surcharge on annual vessel registration fees and a \$5 surcharge on the cost to obtain a foreign vessel identification document. We expect approximately \$400,000 per year to be available for the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels.

■ Successes to Date

- 16 vessels removed since January 1, 2003.
- Total costs in excess of \$295,000.
- External entities have removed 11 of those 16 vessels.
- Total cost to external entities is just over \$18,000 total.
- \$100,000 contributed by Department of Ecology.
- Two more large vessels being removed later this year by City of Tacoma for \$238,000.
- 44 more vessels reported as abandoned or derelict, estimates place the total in Washington State near 300.

Contact

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Visit us on the web:

http://www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/aqr/derelict_vessels/index.html